

Comprehensive Examination of Educational Technology Leadership Internship

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Dr. Abernathy

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Position Goal

In the course of this program, I have had a lot of time to think about where my future is going and what exactly I want to do with it. I have enjoyed some aspects of the program quite a bit more than others and that has led me to see a variety of different options that are open to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching the other teachers how to use the technology available and how to implement it into their classrooms. I hope that in my near future, I am able to use this passion and the knowledge I have gained to perhaps be an instructional technologist in my district. I also thoroughly enjoyed desktop publishing and the being able to create things to use in the classroom such as games and interactive learning tools. This shapes my future vision. My hope is that in the future, I will be able to take all certifications I need to teach High School desktop publishing or perhaps be able to teach future teachers while they are in college.

Leadership Goal

I have a built in desire to teach others and show them the knowledge that I have gained thus far. This is why I became a teacher. I enjoy seeing the moment when a student finally gets it or when they get excited about learning because I have imparted that excitement on them. I enjoy creating excitement and leading that excitement. This passion I have for teaching extends to my desire to be an educational technology leader. I have a desire to create the same excitement I have for learning new technology in other teachers. I want to show them how hard it isn't and what a great tool it is to use in the classroom. I can imagine how exciting it would be for teachers that have not grown up in the technological era, to teach using technology and really apply it to their every day teaching experience. What a great learning environment I could help create if teachers could catch on to the excitement and see the benefits in their classrooms.

I get personal satisfaction out of seeing others succeed and helping them. I know this is the reason why I will enjoy being an Educational Technology Leader. I love to learn new technology and cannot wait to extend that to my fellow teachers. To see them take off in the advanced direction and no longer be confused, frustrated, and lost in regards to technology would be an accomplishment personally and professionally.

Vision of Educational Technology

A great deal of my vision of education has changed since entering this program. I will be honest that technology was not a big part of it. In fact, if I were to write it down last year, technology would not be mentioned at all. I enrolled in this program because I began to see a vital need for technology in education and wanted to explore it, learn about it, and begin to implement it into my own teaching style. My vision of education has now changed to a vision of educational technology.

My vision for educational technology is one of a classroom that has expanded beyond its concrete walls and has encompassed more of our world than our classrooms have ever seen. Educational technology should include teachers learning new ways to reach their students and making lesson opportunities available in formats that all students can learn in. Teachers should be using technologies such as smart boards and virtual classrooms to enhance learning experiences and give students creative outlets that were not available before. Teachers and students should be creating documents together using Google docs by sharing at school and home. Documents should be published in to professional and displayable work for other students to see in another state or another country. Teachers and students should create wikis and blogs to share, collaborate, and discuss new information. These wikis and blogs could be shared with a partner class in England. Classrooms should be a wealth of knowledge center instead of a place to catch up with our ever changing world. Educational technology should begin with the very youngest of students by teaching them the safest ways to gain information and learn from the technology resources available. Students should grow

into safe, knowledgeable learners that can discern information and look at it with scholarly eyes. Students should be led in this great new world of teaching with all of the best resources and technology available. Teachers should be proficient in technology and not afraid to test, try, explore, and create new ways of learning in technology. Each teacher should participate and expand knowledge with “teachnology” in each classroom. Teachnology should be the new vision of our education horizon by intertwining technology and teaching into one synonymous and ever growing way to impart knowledge to students. Teachnology *is* the new way to teach.

Self Discovery

During the course of this program, I have definitely been able to look closer at myself and what I have learned through the entire process. I started this program with little knowledge about technology and simply wanted to learn more. I wanted to learn more about the technology I could implement and integrate into my classroom. It was a dream of mine to use my media station and a student response system in my classroom. I wanted to incorporate technology that I had seen “new” teachers do in their classrooms. I, myself, am not an old teacher by any means. I’ve been teaching for 8 years, but I was not taught in the group of new teachers that have emerged from college knowing how to teach with technology incorporated in their daily lessons. These teachers know technology applications that assist and cater to a variety of diverse learners. They emerge from college already completely proficient in technology applications and are well grounded to experiment with them and create new ideas with them. When I graduated from college, I had a foundation of technology but had not been given a good basis in educational technology. That was what I was lacking. So I embarked on this new program in hopes of making that foundation stronger and better so that I too would be able to create and explore within the technology available. I have been amazed to look back at all the courses I have been through and projects I have completed and see all the new applications that I have learned to use and the vast array of technology available to teachers. There are so many things available to teachers if we simply explore a bit to find them. In all of these experiences, I have learned that I love to incorporate technology in my lessons even more than I ever imagined. I get excited about creating new projects for my students to participate in; I like showing teachers how to use technology and seeing how they in turn get excited about

using it; and I fully expect to integrate more technology into my classroom every day. I do not want to be a teacher that is stuck in the past. I want to advance as our society advances and brings new ways of reaching students with new technology. My goal is to reach students and impart knowledge on them in the best way possible. Technology is my new way of doing just that.

It's a New Me – Technologically Speaking

During the course of this program I learned a great deal about my technology skills and leadership skills. I learned that the two are intertwined at times and I like that very much. My technology skills have definitely taken a jump and I have learned a great deal more about what I can do and what I can explore on my own within the realm of technology. I can now create games within powerpoint, set up online learning communities, communicate via web conference with colleagues, and do a vast deal more to improve technology awareness and knowledge within my learning community. I feel more confident to lead teachers into this new realm of knowledge, as I otherwise did not before. I feel confident enough to be a leader in technology on my campus and to help teachers understand the basic and more complex applications that they can use in their teaching experience and professional development. Before this program, I would never have dreamed of leading a professional development activity (workshop) and honestly did not want to do it three classes into the program. However, I now have a desire to do it. I have a desire to lead teachers and students in a new direction. I have a desire to give insight and help others learn, grow, and become proficient on their own. My leadership skills have expanded because of the confidence I now have in myself and the skills that I was so lacking in. I learned so much more and my technology foundation is now stronger than it has ever been. I have the confidence to lead others and show them the way in technology.

I've Got a Whole New Attitude

Technology has never really been an aspect of my life, especially teaching life, to the extent that I would like to implement it into my everyday habits. Of course I enjoyed the texting, email, the accumulation of songs and pictures on my computer, and the great things I could write within Word. However, now I can enjoy those wonderful things developed through technology and so much more. I can now use those technologies and others on a deeper level. So now that technology has taken on a new level in my life, so has my attitude about technology. I see it as a great tool that I can incorporate into my daily life and not just the regular daily tasks of creating a document or texting. My attitude of technology is one of incorporation, learning, doing, and exploring. It is a new exciting horizon of opportunities for my professional growth and growth in my classroom. It is a tool that I can use to create opportunities for students that otherwise wouldn't be able to reach or teach in a way that is catered to them. These students can now learn with technology that reads to them, listens for them, records what they need, and emphasizes points they may miss. I can professionally help others and gain strides for myself. Workshops and mini-sessions of training are on the horizon to help teachers get better acquainted with and comfortable with technology. Teachers will be inspired and I will guide them on this new horizon as they embrace the present and future of teaching. I am excited about what I can now do, accomplish, inspire, and explore using my new found tools and knowledge!